

REMARKS

Claims 108-165 are pending in the above-captioned patent application following this amendment. Claims 160 and 161 were allowed. Claims 119, 120, 134, 135, 146 and 154 were found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 108-118, 121-133, 136-145, 147-153, 155-159 and 162 were rejected. Claims 108, 125, 141 and 150 have been amended, and claims 163-165 have been added, all for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the goals of the Patent Office pursuant to 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), even though the Applicants believe that the previously pending claims were allowable.

Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims can be found throughout the originally filed application, including the originally filed claims, the drawings and the specification. More specifically, support for the amendments to claims 108, 125, 141 and 150, and for new claims 163-165, can be found at least in previously pending claims 119, 120 and 146, in Figures 1, 2A-2E and 3A-3C, and in the specification at page 7, line 27 through page 12, line 16, and at page 13, line 17 through page 14, line 19.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Consideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 108-118, 121-133, 136-145, 147-153, 155-159 and 162 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai et al. (US 5,476,700). As provided above, independent claims 108, 125, 141 and 150 have been amended. The cited reference does not teach or suggest the features of amended claims 108, 125, 141 and 150. Thus, these claims are believed to be allowable.

Asai et al is directed toward a compact disk and a mold for making a compact disk. The compact disk includes one side having a signal area 5 and a clamp area 6 adjacent to the signal area 5. (Col. 4, lines 13-34; Fig. 1b). Further, the compact disk has a second side having a stack rib 10 that is strategically positioned near a center opening 2 of the compact disk, adjacent to the clamp area 6. "The stack rib 10 is formed on the back of the signal face in the range between the clamp area and the signal area." (Col. 4, lines 21-22). More specifically, "the signal area has a diameter

(D1-D7) of 46-116 mm The stack rib 10 is formed on the side opposed to the signal face in the range of a diameter (D7-D3) of 33 to 40 mm between the clamp area and the signal area." (Col. 4, lines 29-34). Thus, the stack rib 10 on one side of the compact disk is not positioned opposite the signal area on the other side of the compact disk.

In contrast to Asai et al, claim 108 is directed to a hard disk drive (HDD) that requires "a drive housing; and an asymmetrical storage disk that is rotatably coupled to the drive housing, the storage disk including a substantially rigid body region, a first side region that stores data in one or more data tracks and a second side region opposite the first side region, the body region being positioned between the side regions, the second side region including an exposed outer flat section and a raised stiffener that increases the rigidity of the storage disk, the stiffener being at least partially positioned directly opposite one of the data tracks and extending at least approximately 0.001 millimeters away from the outer flat section." These features are not taught or suggested by Asai et al. Thus, claim 108 is believed to be allowable. Because claims 109-124 depend directly or indirectly from claim 108, they are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 125 requires "a drive housing; and an asymmetrical storage disk that is rotatably coupled to the drive housing, the storage disk including a substantially rigid body region, a first side region that stores data in one or more data tracks and a second side region opposite the first side region, the body region being positioned between the side regions, the second side region having an exposed second side surface including an outer flat section and an outer ridged section that is least partially positioned directly opposite one of the data tracks and that extends at least approximately 0.001 millimeters above the outer flat section." These features are not taught or suggested by Asai et al. Thus, claim 125 is believed to be allowable. Because claims 126-140 depend directly or indirectly from claim 125, they are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 141 is directed toward a method that requires the step of "rotatably coupling a storage disk to a drive housing, the storage disk having a substantially rigid body region, a first side region that stores data in one or more data tracks and a second side region opposite the first side region, the body region being positioned between the

side regions, the second side region including an exposed outer flat section and a raised stiffener that increases the rigidity of the storage disk, the stiffener being least partially positioned directly opposite one of the data tracks and extending at least approximately 0.001 millimeters away from the outer flat section.” This step is not taught or suggested by Asai et al. Thus, claim 141 is believed to be allowable. Because claims 142-149 depend directly or indirectly from claim 141, they are also believed to be allowable.

Claim 150 requires the step of “rotatably coupling a storage disk to a drive housing, the storage disk having a substantially rigid body region, a first side region that stores data in one or more data tracks and a second side region opposite the first side region, the body region being positioned between the side regions, the second side region having an exposed second side surface including an outer flat section and an outer ridged section that is least partially positioned directly opposite one of the data tracks and that extends at least approximately 0.001 millimeters above the outer flat section.” This step is not taught or suggested by Asai et al. Thus, claim 150 is believed to be allowable. Because claims 151-157 depend directly or indirectly from claim 150, they are also believed to be allowable.

Allowed Claims / Allowable Subject Matter / New Claims

Claims 160 and 161 are allowed. Claims 119, 120, 134, 135, 146 and 154 were found to contain allowable subject matter.

New independent claims 163-165 have been added by this amendment. New claims 163-165 are based on previously pending dependent claims 119, 120 and 146, which were all found to contain allowable subject matter, substantially re-presented in independent form to incorporate the patentable subject matter. Thus, new claims 163-165 are not narrower in scope than these previously pending claims.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully assert that the finality of this Office Action should be withdrawn, and that claims 108-165 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-487-4077 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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